

Among Friends

No 121: Summer 2011

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Sharing Gifts

Dear Friends,

For some of us, summer brings the promise of some time away from our daily work and preoccupations, and the chance to unwind and recharge our batteries, ready for service with renewed energy. For others, it is a time of stress, with too much heat, traffic and crowds. Having been born and brought up in the South of Italy, which for many people is a wonderful holiday destination, I know only too well the strain of trying to work and get on with life's tasks in uncomfortable heat, dealing with other people's expectations. Whenever I go on holiday now, I am aware of all the people who are working hard to help us enjoy ourselves. Yet we should not think our presence a burden to them – we bring with us the resources they need to earn their livelihood. So, as in all human interaction, an exchange of gifts and blessings takes place.

Exchanging gifts, “bringing and sharing” was the theme of the gathering of Friends that took place over Easter at Herzberg in Switzerland. This year the annual gathering was organised jointly with Europe and Middle East Young Friends, which meant that many



My Response Group at Herzberg

more of them were present that would normally be the case in an ordinary EMES Annual Meeting. Also, the Section was host to the Central Executive Committee of Friends World Committee for Consultation and to the International Planning Committee for the World Conference of Friends, which meant that we were blessed with the presence of over 20 Friends from other parts of the world – Africa, Australia, Cuba, India, Nepal, United States, Uzbekistan.

In a moving sharing session on Easter Sunday each of the ten response groups expressed in craft, music, dance and drama its learning from the gathering. We had colourful paper hands on which we wrote blessings before we gave them to each other. We looked at footprints drawn on paper, and were reminded of the prints that we leave on each other and on the earth. My group hummed a beautiful tune whilst the scene of the crucifixion was being read, stopping abruptly when Jesus died and “the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom” (Matthew 27:51) – ending the separation between God and the world. May our lives witness to Immanuel – God with us.

Marisa Johnson, Executive Secretary

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QUNO visit to Roma people in Central Europe

In early November 2010, **Rachel Brett** (Human Rights and Refugees Representative at Quaker UN Office, Geneva) and **Peggy Brett** (Young Friend and Programme Officer at the Centre for Civil and Political Rights Geneva) visited the Friends Evangelical Church in Hungary and their 'Gypsy mission' to the Roma in Hungary and neighbouring parts of Croatia and Serbia.

In the course of 2010 Rachel Brett made contact (through FWCC) with the Friends Evangelical Church in Tolna, Hungary, who are associated with Evangelical Friends in Ohio. As a result of this contact we were invited to visit Tolna to learn more about the Church and their mission to the Roma. We were warmly welcomed by the members of the Friends Church, particularly their Pastor Antal (Tony) Frei and worshipped at both the main church in Tolna and a 'Roma church' in Kolked, a nearby town. As our main interest in visiting was to learn about their work with the Roma it was interesting to note that while at least one Roma family regularly attends the main church in Tolna, the congregation of the 'Roma' church was exclusively Roma.

In addition to attending the 'Roma church' and visiting some of the families connected with the church in Hungary, we were taken to three Roma communities (two in Croatia and one in Serbia) where the Church does charitable work and reaches out to the Roma. All of these Roma communities are settled, not nomadic.

Of the two places we visited in Croatia one was a shanty-town on the outskirts of the town of Darda,



Roma settlement in Darda

Photo: Peggy Brett



House Church, Serbia

Photo: Peggy Brett

the other was a rural settlement at Vardaroc. In Darda the local authority had paved the road into the shanty-town, installed street lights and started a building scheme, but this did not diminish the stark contrast with the modern houses of the main town on the other side of the railway. Less progress had been made to improve the rural settlement and swastikas spray-painted on the windows demonstrated the feelings that some have for the Roma.

In Serbia we visited a House Church in Bezdan. The local authorities here have an active programme, designed by the minorities commissioner who is himself Roma, to increase school and college attendance.

Although this was only a short visit some issues, particularly those around exclusion, housing conditions, and lack of access to education and employment were obvious and were highlighted by the Roma we met. It was encouraging to see that some local authorities are trying to improve the access to education and to reasonable housing, but the problems and challenges are immense.

Since returning, we have learned of some other Friends who are engaged with issues about Roma, gypsies and travellers, and have also hosted some informal, off-the-record discussions at Quaker House. One result of the latter is that a well-qualified Hungarian Roma woman, Dr Rita Izsák, has been appointed as the new UN Human Rights Council Independent Expert on Minorities.

Reflections about William Penn and Saumur

Jeanne-Henriette Louis, former Clerk of France Yearly Meeting, reflects about the influence of Saumur on William Penn's life and legacy, following the commemorations in May 2011 of his presence in the town.

From the time when I discovered Friends through history (in 1981), I was fascinated by Pennsylvania's Holy Experiment (1682-1756), and I asked myself the following question : did this experiment really die out in 1756, as official history tells us, or did it just disappear and hide? If this was the case, it became a game of *hide and seek* to find where it could be found in disguise. This is the kind of seeker I became as a historian. What was in hiding, of course, was the Spirit of the Holy Experiment.

Since William Penn signed the Charter of privileges and Liberties in Philadelphia (the City of Brotherly love) in 1701, the Charter was respected and put into practice by the Quaker government of Pennsylvania, and this



Jeanne-Henriette Louis Photo: Reveil FM

included conscientious objection during the wars against the French and the Native Americans. But even before the Holy Experiment ended in 1756, Pennsylvania progressively drifted from a peaceful Province to a warmongering one, first against the French and the Native Americans, then against Britain after 1763. Indeed, the War of Independence was directed by George Washington from Philadelphia.

But the spirit of the Holy Experiment can be found even before the event itself, for the message is an old one : *Love your neighbour as you love yourself*, as Christ said, and William Penn said : *Let us then try what love*



Saumur

Photo: Reveil FM

can do (Some Fruits of Solitude).

Fragments of the Holy Experiment in disguise have been found by several historians, and some of them take place in France : the Rotch family from Nantucket, settled down in Dunkerque in 1786, and were linked to Congénies, near Nîmes, where the French Quaker movement started in 1788. One episode has to do with French history even before William Penn became a Friend, and founded Pennsylvania : Penn spent 2 years studying in Saumur, listening to famous theologian Moïse Amyraut (1662-1664), and experienced tolerance and mutual respect in a religiously mixed population.

An international team of historian seekers plunged for the last three years into the Saumur experience of William Penn, collaborating with the Saumur authorities. In celebration of this episode, the Saumur townhall dedicated a square to the future founder of Pennsylvania on May 20th, 2011. This was a very moving and exciting experience.



Quakers in Saumur Photo: Dominique Pécaud

Facing Psychotrauma to bring healing in Croatia

Charles David Tauber, *Member of Northeast Netherlands Monthly Meeting, writes about his work in Croatia which is rooted in Quaker principles:*

The Coalition for Work with Psychotrauma and Peace (CWWPP) was founded informally in 1994 by a number of people working in The Netherlands on the problems of asylum seekers who were concerned about the situation in the countries resulting from the breakup of the Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia. The organization has been in the region since 1995. In 1997, we registered as a "stichting", the most common type of registration for non-governmental organizations in The Netherlands, and later registered in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the USA.

The work of the CWWPP is based on that of Quaker and other peacebuilders, most notably Adam Curle, John Paul Lederach and Vamik Volkan, who found that it is necessary to create conditions for peace, that work must be long-term, stretching even to generations, that work must be integrative, that is, that work on areas such as mental and physical health, non-violent conflict transformation, civil society, human rights and economics cannot be separated, that it is necessary to work on a number of levels in parallel (we see the levels of the individual, the family, the group, the neighborhood, the community, the society, the region and a global level) and that there must be good assessment and evaluation of programs. While all of this sounds relatively simply and logical, it is surprising how many programs conducted by reputable agencies do not follow these principles.

Obviously, as a small group with limited resources, we cannot do everything that we would like to. The essence of our work comes down to Adam Curle's principle of creating conditions for peace. Thus, we work directly with people on counseling on the one hand and attempt to create capacity on the other. Our basic method of creating capacity involves giving a course called the Course for Workers in Areas of Regeneration (CWIAR). The CWIAR is roughly 120 hours long and includes basic interpersonal and group communication, basic psychology and methods of counseling, non-violent conflict transformation, civil

society and human rights. It is very highly participatory, and thus the precise content and length varies with the desires and needs of the specific group. Until now, the course has been given onsite. We are in the process of writing a manual for it in English which will be published in modular form on our website. This manual then will be translated into Croatian/Serbian/Bosnian (CSB) and other languages as opportunities become available. Also, we intend to translate the course into a more interactive online format.

Another important project that we recently have begun is our sensitization/public education program. This



War scars in Vukovar Photo: Charles Tauber

involves the publication of leaflets on various topics relevant to the organization in a format such that they can be adapted by other organizations as desired. These leaflets also are published on our website in English and CSB. We would welcome translation into other languages. We also plan to make short videos on relevant topics and publish them on the website.

Unfortunately, we see our work in The Balkans as long-term. We also wish to work in other areas of the world.

More information about the CWWPP and its activities can be found on www.cwwpp.org. We recommend that F(f)riends have a look at the documents in the About Us section entitled the Platform, which gives a summary of our philosophy and plans, and Lessons Learned Since 1995. We welcome comments and cooperation from F(f)riends at cwwppsummer@gmail.com

From Just War theory to a Doctrine of Just Peace

Gordon Matthews represented FWCC at the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation in Kingston, Jamaica. In this article he tells us about how the churches are seeking the Way of Peace:

Ten Quakers were fortunate to be amongst nearly 1,000 participants at the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC) which was held 17-25 May 2011 in Kingston, Jamaica. The two other historic peace churches, Mennonites and the Church of the Brethren, were also represented at this major event. We witnessed the world's churches coming together on the road to becoming *living peace churches*. The Constantinian churches seem to be abandoning their *just war* doctrine and moving towards *just peace*.

In a keynote speech Paul Oestreicher, who is both a member of Britain Yearly Meeting and a canon in the Church of England, called on the churches to work towards the abolition of war by making the prosecution of war illegal. He said: "The survival of our planet demands nothing less than the abolition of war." Tim Seidel, peace secretary of Mennonite Central Committee, said that our goal should be to outlaw war within ten years.

Dutch Quaker Kees Nieuwerth led a workshop entitled "The Responsibility to Witness: The Historical Peace Church Testimony towards Peacebuilding" and called for an ecumenical peace council to be held in 2021.

The IEPC, organised by the World Council of Churches (WCC) to mark the end of the Decade to Overcome Violence, was a forward-looking event. The final Message calls on the ecumenical movement as a whole – and particularly those planning the WCC Assembly of 2013 in Busan, South Korea, with the theme *God of life, lead us to justice and peace* – "to make Just Peace, in all its dimensions, a key priority".

Four major themes, *Peace in the community; Peace with the Earth; Peace in the market place; and Peace among the peoples*, were explored in small bible study groups, worship, plenary sessions, seminars, workshops and cultural events.

Nonviolence, the effects of climate change, economic justice and the UN doctrine of "Responsibility to Protect" were amongst the major issues under discussion. Both Kees Nieuwerth and I report on these



Kees Nieuwerth

Photo: Gordon Matthews

discussions in articles on the FWCC-EMES website. After the IEPC how can we Quakers help the churches along the road towards becoming *living peace churches*?

- By getting up to speed with where things are at in the ecumenical movement. Read: "An Ecumenical Call to Just Peace", which was published by the WCC prior to the Convocation; Paul Oestreicher's keynote speech; and the IEPC Message. All are available at www.overcomingviolence.org.
- By working within local councils of churches. They could reflect on the IEPC Message. If possible, arrange a meeting with a participant in the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI). Or there may be local or national conflicts which your council of churches might usefully address in order to identify opportunities for nonviolent intervention. You will find this work within local, regional and national councils of churches easier if Quakers already play an active part in the life of the churches.
- By contributing to the on-going discussion within the WCC in the run up to the next Assembly in Busan in 2013.
- By being willing ultimately to give up our special status as *historic peace churches*.

At the Busan Assembly, the God of life might then lead the world's churches to take another big step along the Way of Peace. Let's help them – and us – to be open to God's leadings.

Herzberg gathering in pictures



*Kenya Casanova Sales (Cuba YM) and Marisa Johnson
Photo: Rachel Bewley Bateman*



*Robin Mohr, new Section of the Americas' Executive Secretary
Photo: Rachel Bewley Bateman*



Balance Photo: Joe Snyder



*Dudu Mtshazo, Clerk of FWCC & David Bucura, Clerk of Africa Section
Photo: Rachel Bewley Bateman*



*Marius Boelsma Studinger, Netherlands Yearly Meeting
Photo: Joe Snyder*



Young Friends

Photo: Joe Snyder



Meadow

Photo: Tamara Gorbenko



God has only our hands Photo: Christian Pinkert



*Sarah Hoggatt,
Co-editor of Spirit
Rising, an anthology
of writings by Young
Friends
Photo: Joe Snyder*



Herzberg

Photo: Tamara Gorbenko



*Musicians Katharina Bircher and Heleen Leijendekker
Photo: Joe Snyder*



Mike Zipser & Annie Janssen Photo: Joe Snyder

QCEA: making the Quaker voice heard

The last six months in Brussels, life has been dominated by participation in European Commission consultations on a variety of policy areas. Whilst such consultations happen all the time, this has been a particularly busy period.

The main reason for this is the fact that the EU is gearing up for setting its new multi-annual financial framework (which will need to be in place ready for implementation from 2014 onwards). This sets the broad parameters within which the EU budget has to fall.

In the preparatory phase prior to this new framework, it has been necessary for the EU to draft a variety of policy documents in a variety of areas to guide their financial proposals.

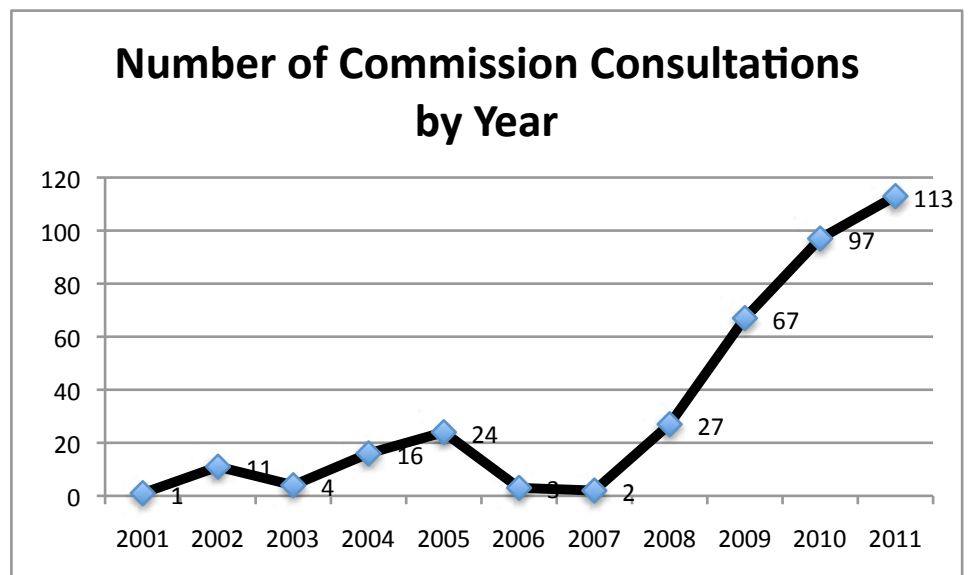
But this is not the only reason for the significant increase in consultations. The Commission is, generally, consulting more widely. This can be seen from the graph opposite.

QCEA can't participate in all of them. And not many other organizations or individuals do either. In fact, participating in consultations in a targeted way is one of the better ways of making ones voice heard.

Our level of participation has increased, though over recent years. The first consultation we participated in was in 2006. That was a consultation on the European Commission Green Paper 'A European Strategy for Sustainable, Competitive and Secure Energy'. We tried to get across that justice in terms of access to energy at a global level is more important than that Europe (European industry and citizens) get as much energy as they could possibly want at all times. But we also highlighted the close link between western profligacy with energy and climate change.

In 2008 we responded to a consultation on the EU Budget. The EU was reviewing the way the budget is structured in order to find a better, more transparent way to set the budget which does not simply open up

the doors to a battle between Member States about who pays in and who gets something back. We argued that the EU budget is about solidarity; that it is about the EU sharing resources among Member States but also about living up to the promises that EU Member States have made about development assistance to poorer countries. It is about using the resources well to support



peacebuilding, not to spend it on ill-conceived military missions and on trade without justice.

But the real push on consultations came in the last 8 months. Here is a list of the consultations we participated in:

- The External Dimension of the EU's Energy Strategy
- Energy Infrastructure
- Bio-economy
- EU Project Bonds (a way of financing big infrastructure projects)
- Resource Efficiency
- Smart cities
- Sustainable Development post 2012
- EU Security Research Programme post 2013
- EU Research Framework Programme post 2013
- EU External Financing Instruments post 2013

And as you can see from the graph above, we could have responded to many more, though of course some of them are on subjects we don't work on directly or even indirectly.

Challenging homophobia in Eastern Europe:

Clare Dimyon, *MBE*, writes about challenging homophobia in Eastern Europe and the role of embassies:

I write with a sore head after that Bulgarian rakia, in the home in Sofia of another stranger, who is not a stranger, who has made a space for me. Such are the perils of the PRIDE Solidarity Tour of central & eastern Europe, which was supposed to be for 2009 but now has a life all of its own, with possibilities and opportunities breaking out around me. I have just been interrupted by a beep that is an extraordinary development from the British Embassy in Ekaterinaburg in Russia!

Last night was lovely, the finale to the amazing initiative by five LGBT (= Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) friendly embassies in Sofia to each sub-title and screen an LGBT film from their own country and thereby create a five week PRIDE FilmFest. Just 48 hours ago, in her PRIDE speech, Hillary Clinton mentioned the “Joint Embassy Statement” in Bratislava where 20 embassies, including Poland and Hungary, signed their support of LGBT people and their friends and families. I am tickled as I remember turning up in Bratislava in 2009 to be solemnly informed by Slovak LGBT that “Slovakia wasn’t ready for PRIDE”. The British Embassy flew a rainbow flag and rather portentously screened the film “Before Stonewall” and we had an LGBT cycling trip along the banks of the Danube. Nine months later (nine months mark you) I return to be described as the “Mother of Slovak PRIDE”. Slovakia, last country in the EU to hold PRIDE... last but by no means the least. Dúhový PRIDE – Bratislava is now being described as a “model” PRIDE. The pride I feel seeing that iconic bridge, and at hearing Hillary Clinton mention things that I gently initiated.

The nascent “Joint Embassy Statement” started here in Bulgaria in 2009 led by then British Ambassador, Steve Williams (prompted by a gentle suggestion!), 12 separate embassies made separate statements. He took a load of homophobic flack, diverting a good deal away from the Bulgarian LGBT+. HM Ambassador Greg Dorey in Budapest, with brilliant good sense, turned it into a single “Joint embassy statement”, far more efficient and far more effective. The Hungarian Jewish



Clare with a random bear and Andrei Odintsov on the Vychod – Coming Out (LGBT Organisation St Petersburg Region) “Day of Silence” Action on the Nevsky Prospekt in St Petersburg on Sat 16 April 2011 Photo: Vera Scotvita

lady in Budapest who was putting me up, described the political silence that resulted after the first “Joint Embassy Statement” in 2009. Just two weeks ago, that stunningly successful Budapest PRIDE 2011 supported by 19 ambassadors including Croatia, no doubt feeling embarrassed by the violence that accompanied Split PRIDE.

After three years, these ambassadors have or are about to circulate. I feel great sadness not to see Steve Williams who has done so much for LGBT+. That said, it is quite something to hear his replacement, Catherine Barber, Her Majesty’s current representative to Bulgaria, say in a British Council packed with Bulgarian LGBT+, that she identifies as bisexual. It was indeed a “Beautiful Thing” the name of the film about to be screened. The Blackberry given to me by the LGBT History Month to help me be effective (and safe), beeped with an email from the middle of Siberia, from Vyacheslav who with less English than I have Russian, nursed me through my speech for the British Embassy in St Petersburg and heckled brilliantly the word I just couldn’t say... in my first visit to Russia, 34 years after I decided to learn Russian in 1978 for “World Peace”. Being laughed at wasn’t such a bad preparation for being a Quaker lesbian...of the British Empire!

News from Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre

Woodbrooke tutor Pam Lunn is giving this year's **Swarthmore Lecture**. Pam is Programme Leader for the Good Lives project at Woodbrooke and has been bringing sustainability issues into the course programme for the past few years. The title of her lecture, and of the book which accompanies it, is *Costing Not Less Than Everything: sustainability and spirituality in challenging times*. The lecture will be given on Monday evening, 1 August 2011, during Britain Yearly Meeting Gathering at Canterbury, the 2011 residential Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain. The book, published by Quaker Books, will go on sale immediately after the lecture or will be available to order from the Quaker Centre Bookshop at www.quaker.org.uk/shop. Sound recordings of the spoken lecture will be available on CD from Woodbrooke by the end of August. There is a weekend at Woodbrooke for anyone wanting to follow up the issues raised in the lecture: 'The Time is Now', being held from 23-25 September 2011.

The *Quaker in Europe* project continues to develop and if anyone would like to know about course details Julia Ryberg would be very happy to hear from you. Julia is the European Project Coordinator and can be reached by email at Julia.ryberg@woodbroke.org.uk. Woodbrooke's Director, Sandra Berry said that "*the pioneering work of this project has much to teach us and will help us to shape the way forward for Woodbrooke's eLearning agenda*".

Postgraduate Quaker Studies tutor, Betty Hagglund, was one of the guest speakers at a **special event in Saumur**, France in May this year, to mark the naming of a square after the Quaker, William Penn. Around 130 people from seven different yearly meetings from across Europe and North America travelled to the town, where the philosopher and proprietor spent two years at The Saumur Protestant Academy. Betty gave a talk about the daily life of the students at the Protestant Academy in Saumur during the seventeenth century, at the time when Penn was there. She said: "I had a very enthusiastic response from the audience. Many people came up to me afterwards with questions and

to say how much they had enjoyed it." Woodbrooke's Centre for Postgraduate Quaker Studies (CPQS) was also invited to judge the essay competition which came before the event.

Woodbrooke has very recently been going **on-the-road in Europe**, with Lizz Roe in the Czech Republic with *Let Your Life Speak* and Tim Peat Ashworth and Alex Wildwood in Germany with *Rooted in Christianity, Open to New Light*. An event in Brussels is planned for later this year in October. We look forward to reporting more on these events next time.

News from Birmingham: Woodbrooke held its annual **Open Garden Day** on 19 June and welcomed around 400 people from the local area to explore the 10 acres of organically managed gardens and woodland. A local jazz band and the choir provided musical entertainment and much Woodbrooke cake was eaten. A proportion of the proceeds have been donated to Water Aid, and a local children's hospice. Woodbrooke is hoping to provide visitors to its site in Birmingham with some new facilities with plans in place for a new garden lounge. This would provide a much needed social space for people to talk, listen and share experiences. More details are available on the Woodbrooke website.

And finally, a fantastic opportunity has arisen to research an aspect of Quakerism by studying for a PhD with the Centre for Postgraduate Quaker Studies (CPQS), to begin in 2012, with the **Taylor Residency Fellowship**. The scheme reduces the cost of the three year course by a third as it covers the price of spending the required 25 weeks residency period at Woodbrooke. For further details, contact Ben Pink Dandelion by e-mailing b.p.dandelion@bham.ac.uk.

Thinking of attending a course? Catchpool Fund bursaries are readily available if financial help is needed. Contact Julia Ryberg, European Project Co-ordinator, for information on the Catchpool Fund at julia.ryberg@woodbrooke.org.uk or +46 (0) 175-715 30. See www.woodbrooke.org.uk for general information and to request a course brochure.

QUAKER YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

Travelling cheerfully over the world

Mid July – Mid August 2012

The Pilgrimage brings together 28 young Friends from America, Europe and the Middle East to travel and learn together on an inspiring four week journey to the Netherlands and England including '1652 Country' in community with a team of 4 leaders.

Will you be aged 16 – 18?

Would you like a chance to:

- be part of a community of young Friends
- dive into your spiritual journey
- form lasting friendships
- explore our inspiring Quaker roots
- share and experience different cultures, Quaker traditions and worship
- nurture spirit, body and mind

Leaders wanted

- Do you enjoy working and being with 16-18 year olds?
- Could you support these young people in:
 - exploring and sharing their spiritual journeys
 - learning and valuing our different Quaker roots and traditions
 - developing their leadership using your knowledge of Quakerism
- would you enjoy participating in building community together with them?

**COULD YOU BE THE LEADER WE ARE
LOOKING FOR? OR DO YOU KNOW
SOMEONE WHO COULD BE?**

For further information about becoming a pilgrim or an adult leader please contact:

Rachel Miller
11 Garth Brow, Kendal LA9 5NN, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1539 737010
Email: qyp.emes@gmail.com

QCEA: Making the Quaker Voice Heard (continued from page 8)

But this has been a lot of work; it is work which allows us to draw on the wealth of advocacy material and messages which QCEA has built up over the years and make those messages be heard at a time when it might have an impact – at a time when the EU is actively listening. We have also, when this has been possible, alerted Friends to the opportunity to contribute to such consultations as citizens. If you are interested in being alerted in that way (or to other opportunities to take political action on issues QCEA works on) then let us know and we will add you to our action alert list.

We have developed a blog (<http://qceablog.wordpress.com>) and you can follow us on Twitter @QCEA;

through both of these you will be alerted when we have done new consultation responses.

One of the things that is always very surprising to people is to learn how few responses the EU gets to the consultations. They are in the hundreds (and the low hundreds at that) in most cases. So every single contribution counts. The more of us contribute and say that we believe that the EU should focus on peace, on solidarity, on protecting the climate, on saving energy, of trading fairly with others, the less the decision-makers can say that people don't want these things.

Diary Dates 2011

More dates for 2011 and beyond are available on the website: www.fwccemes.org. Please send items for inclusion in the diary to Marisa Johnson at emes@fwccemes.org.

14-18 July 2011: France Yearly Meeting, at Foix. Information from assembleedefrance@gmail.com

30 July – 6 August 2011: Britain Yearly Meeting Summer Gathering, Canterbury. Information from Karl Gibbs ymg@quaker.org.uk

16-18 September 2011: Border Meeting for Friends from Europe. Information from Martin Touwen grensbijeenkomst@gmail.com and see page 11.

13-16 October 2011: German Yearly Meeting, Bad Pyrmont. Contact through the Clerk pyrmont@quaaker.org

11-13 November 2011: EMES Peace and Service Consultation, Kortenberg, Belgium. Information from emes@fwccemes.org

18 – 20 November 2011: Meeting for Learning, Svartbäcken, Sweden. Information from Julia Ryberg julinaryberg@yahoo.se

10 December 2011: Preparation for European Participants at World Conference of Friends, Friends House, London. Information from Sheila Gatiss sgj.cam@talk21.com

Wanted : General Secretary for FWCC

FWCC is seeking a new General Secretary to begin in January 2013

The General Secretary of FWCC works in partnership with the Central Executive Committee and the four geographical Sections of FWCC to carry forward FWCC's mission: Answering God's call to universal love, FWCC brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications, and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world.

The four primary areas of work are connections and communications among Friends, Quaker United Nations work, ecumenical work through Christian world communions, and office administration. The position entails extensive international travel, speaking to Friends groups of all sizes, networking, and a great deal of written communication.

More information from FWCC website: <http://www.fwccworld.org/content/general-secretary-recruitment-0>

Among Friends is the newsletter of Europe and Middle East Section of Friends World Committee for Consultation. We want Among Friends to reflect the diversity of Quaker life and experience across the Section and welcome articles, photos and news of forthcoming events.

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If you wish to make a bank transfer, please use the details below:

From outside the UK: (Payment in Euros can now be made to a German Bank. Details from the Secretary)

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IBAN: GB11 CPBK 0800 5150 0732 10

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Account Number: 20180696

Sort Code: 08-60-01

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Deadline for Among Friends 121: 1 November 2011